

## Report for Parish Pastoral Council – 01/07/2019 (DME)

<b>Area of Activity</b>	
<b>Our Lady's Bereavement Team (Antonieta Tinney)</b>	
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>	
<p>The team met on 29<sup>th</sup> May to finalise the programme for Prayer and Reflection annual service Reflection for the bereaved families of our Parish, which was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Trish had send out 29 invitations to newly bereaved families.</p> <p>Around 40 people have attended. Some apologies were received from people invited but unable to attend.</p> <p>A thank you to the 5 members of our choir who sang during the service especially for singing "Steal away to Jesus" a cappella, during the lighting of the candles.</p>	
<b>Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed</b>	
<p>A possibility has been discussed to hold a "D" workshop afternoon in our church, suggested by a parishioner involved with the Lister Hospital. A decision will be made at our next meeting.</p> <p>It is important to have regular meetings. Our aim is to have a strong team for supporting parishioners in need of our "ministry".</p>	
<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Who</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To make our team more known within the parish.</li> <li>-Continue to send sympathy cards to newly bereaved families.</li> <li>-To send cards on the first anniversary.</li> </ul>	All

<b>Area of Activity</b>	<b>Report on Ecumenism for Parish Council</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan Drew a minister who has worked at St. Marys, Christchurch and the Hub Church is moving to a ministerial post in Australia</li> <li>• Thanks were given for the life of Peter Bleasby who died recently. He was a very active supporter of CTH and Tilehouse Baptist Church for many years.</li> <li>• It was noted that a new Treasurer was still needed.</li> <li>• The plaque for the CTH Sundial in the Quaker Peace Garden is being made.</li> <li>• The Hitchin Food Rescue Hub is up and running at Church House on Thursday mornings.</li> <li>• Christchurch are writing to the other CTH members to invite lunch club organisers to a meeting.</li> <li>• The Ash Wednesday Lunch was held at St Faiths</li> <li>• The World Day of Prayer was organised by women in Slovenia</li> <li>• There were 11 Lent groups 7 of which already existed as study groups and 4 were new ones</li> <li>• 451 people left Bancroft Rec on the Good Friday Walk of Witness and others joined in at the Square</li> <li>• It was found that it was difficult to deliver Easter Cards at blocks like Peppermint Rd because codes were needed to open the outside doors</li> <li>• There were no takers for the Alpha Together initiative but the churches will be given more time</li> <li>• It was decided that this Year's Christian Aid Week will be the last house to house collection. Big Breakfasts may be used instead. Many thanks were offered to Helen Richardson for her efforts over the years</li> <li>• Report from the Executive – there was a Youth Council meeting at which it was suggested that an Open Mike Night might be held and that there might be a Church Tent at the Walsworth Fair next year</li> <li>• The subject of a Hitchin Version of the Tees-side video was discussed and Ruth Smith may be asked to organise it</li> </ul>	

- PHASE – Kieran said that Liz Felton had joined the team and Donna had left and another new person is coming. 450 children had received Rule Books on the transition to secondary school. A 1 day Time Trek Course had been held and a prayer meeting for the leaders had been to pray for the children facing exams
- The Street Angels have found they are able to pray while walking
- The Reconciliation Course set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury has started and is going well. People from other Churches in CTH have come.
- The New Testament Church of God are starting an initiative called 24/7 Prayer. The idea is that volunteers will agree to pray for 1 hour so that a whole week night and day is covered
- Charmaine a National Youth Coordinator from HOPE UK spoke about their aim for all 11 to 25 year olds to make drug free choices. The worries for youngsters are Emotional Instability and a Fatherless Generation. She said young people need influence from parents and grandparents.

### Activity since last PPC meeting

#### Forthcoming Events

- Celebrations for Church Anniversaries in 2019 will be held at St Marys at 4pm on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Future CTH meetings will be on Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at Walsworth Rd and Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at Church St Marys

### Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

#### Objectives set

#### Who

### Area of Activity Energy Report

#### Activity since last PPC meeting

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 we had the PV solar panels system commissioned on Christopher House. The system was sold to the parish as capable of delivering Expected Yearly generation of 5037 kWh or 10 074 kWh in 2 years. **In the last 25 months our system has delivered 11 540 kWh.** That is 1 466 kWh more than predicted.

The system was predicted to have earned the parish an annual FITs cash back of £206/year but **the parish received £ 659.82** which is more than predicted for the whole year.

So far it has reduced the parish annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4436.5kg.

The system has saved the parish in saved energy costs over the 2 years, £ 1720.20. Together with the FITs income, **the parish has gained £1988.73** when it's expected yearly gain was of £737 per year.

It was expected that the investment will be paid back in 12 3/4 years if the cost of electricity stays the same for the next 12 years, it is now expected to take less especially as the costs of energy have risen a lot recently and are likely to rise year on year. The initial pay back calculation assumed that the parish would be paying VAT on the electricity bought, but the current IFM contract absorbs the VAT and we are not paying it. The pay-back period for the £11451.60 invested was reduced to 10 years.

For those interested: The PV panel's life performance efficiency is expected to slowly reduce over time with age: After 10 years down to 90% of Panel min specification; and after 25 years down to 80% of Panel min specification. Fits payments only last for 20 years.

**Forecast usage:** In May 2018 the gas and electricity contracts were re-negotiated by IFM and the best offer came from British Gas. The new rates starting in July went up by 28% to 30%, which is a very large hike in running costs for all parishes in this scheme. Even if in our parish we only use only as much we used in the last 12 months, a significant increase in costs. So that the £ 1 988.73 gain to the parish changes the pay-back period is now further reduced to 5.8 years.

### Suggestion for the parish

Installing a battery for storage of mid-day excess generated would also be beneficial. There has been news of better battery technology due to come on the market in 2 years or more time. It would be advisable to wait for it to reach the UK market.

We are currently with the help of an appointed Carbon Trust advisor, exploring the options of changing the heating of all parish buildings from Gas to a Ground Sourced Heat Pump system, thus making the whole parish site almost fossil fuel free, which if installed by April 2021 would bring the parish a significant government subsidy over 20 years. And go a long way towards making the parish a site net-Zero Carbon. No new buildings will have gas supplied to them from 2025 a government law, so it does not make sense to have gas installed in any project.

### Objectives set

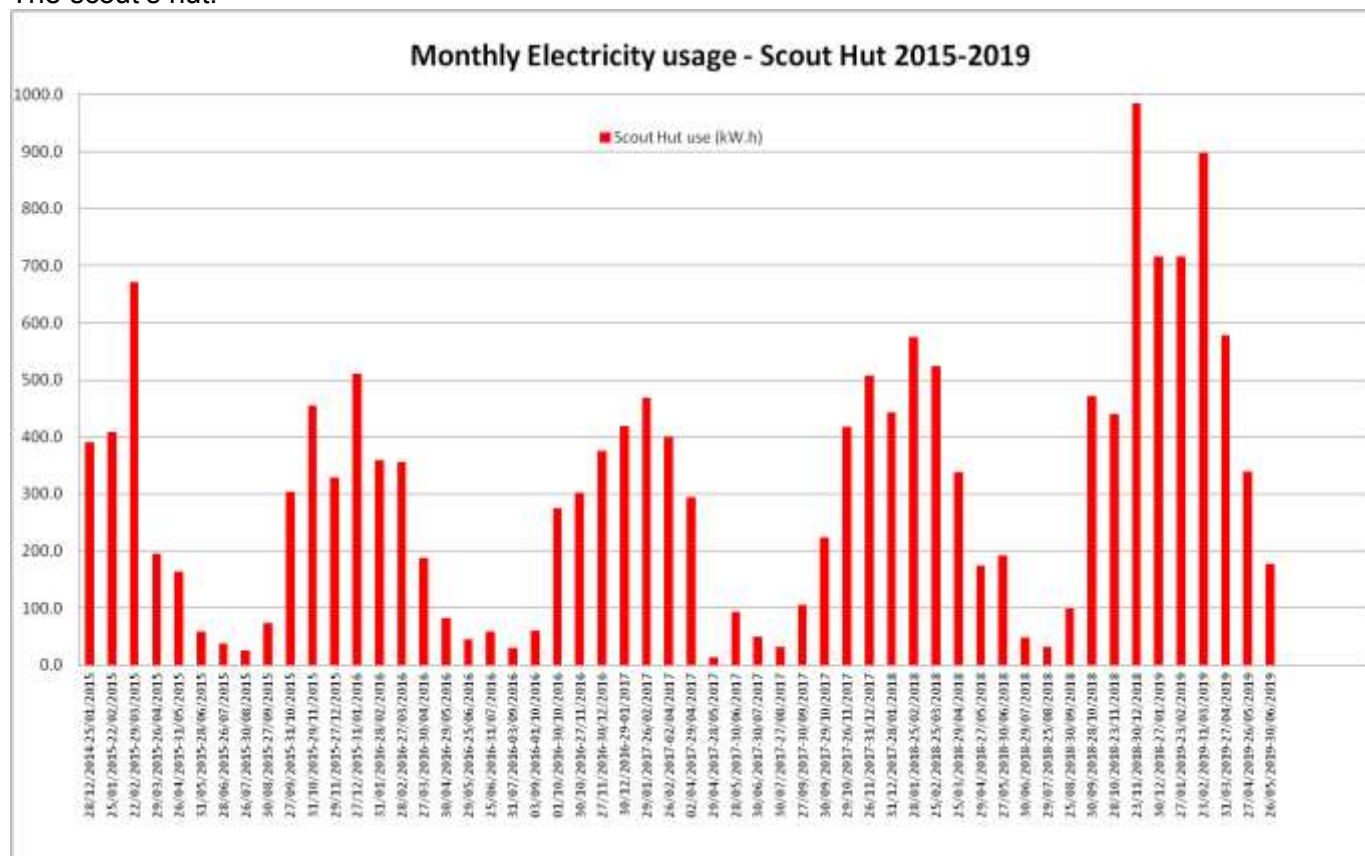
### Who

To make our parish resilient and self-sufficient in energy generation for the future needs. Can we reach 110% as suggested by a Vatican cardinal?

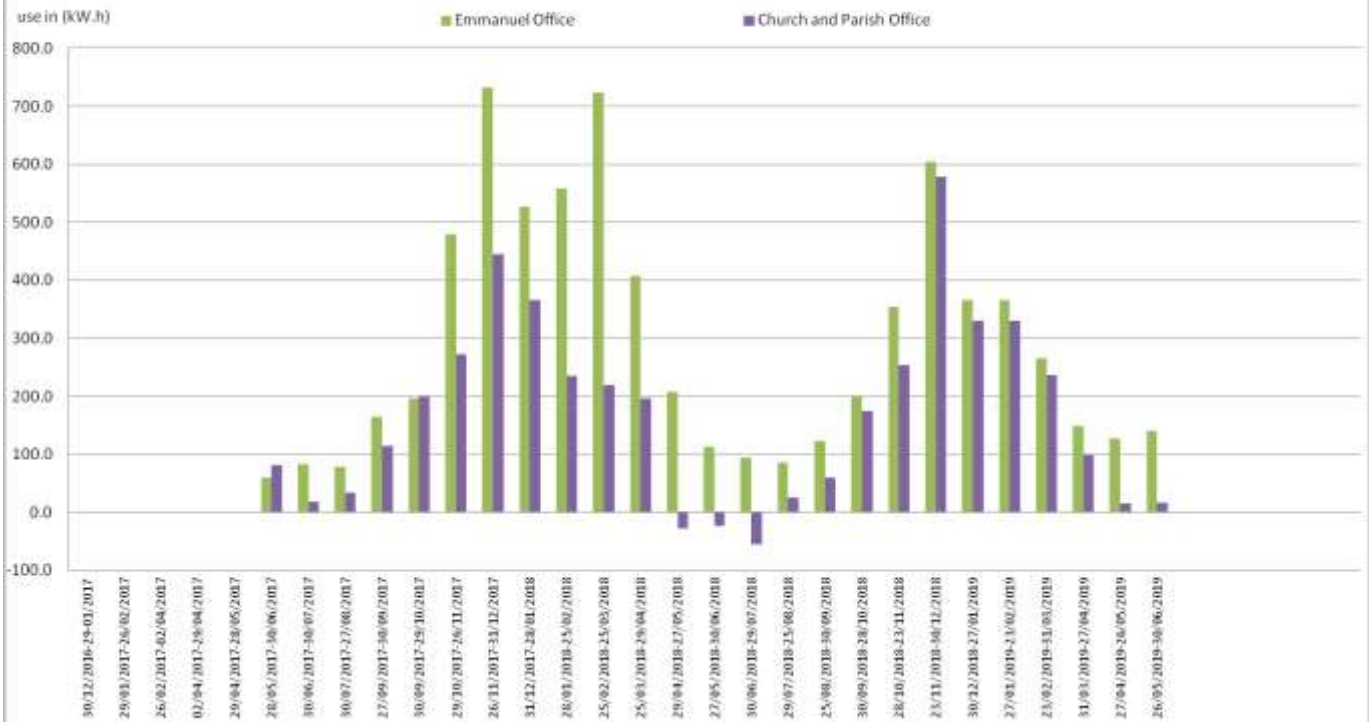
ALL

### Other energy bills

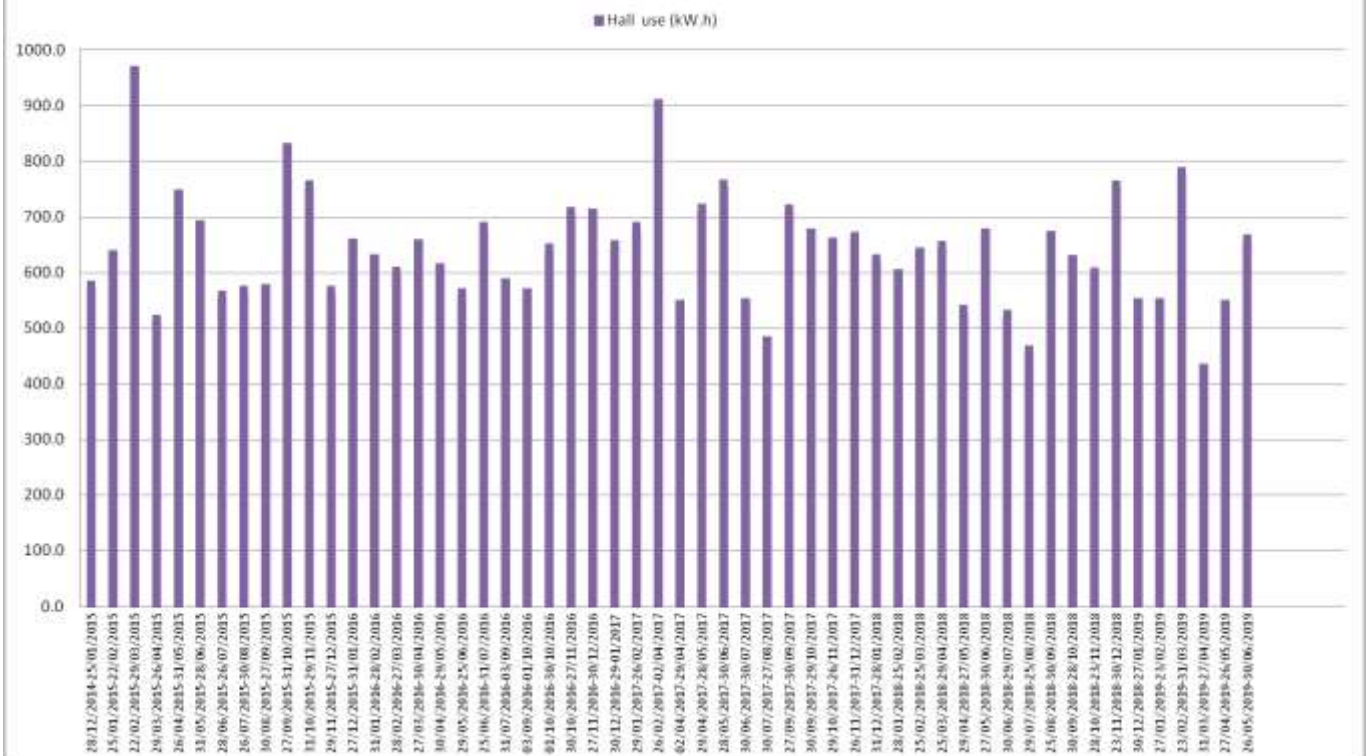
The scout's hut:



### Monthly Electricity usage - PV site meters 2017-2019

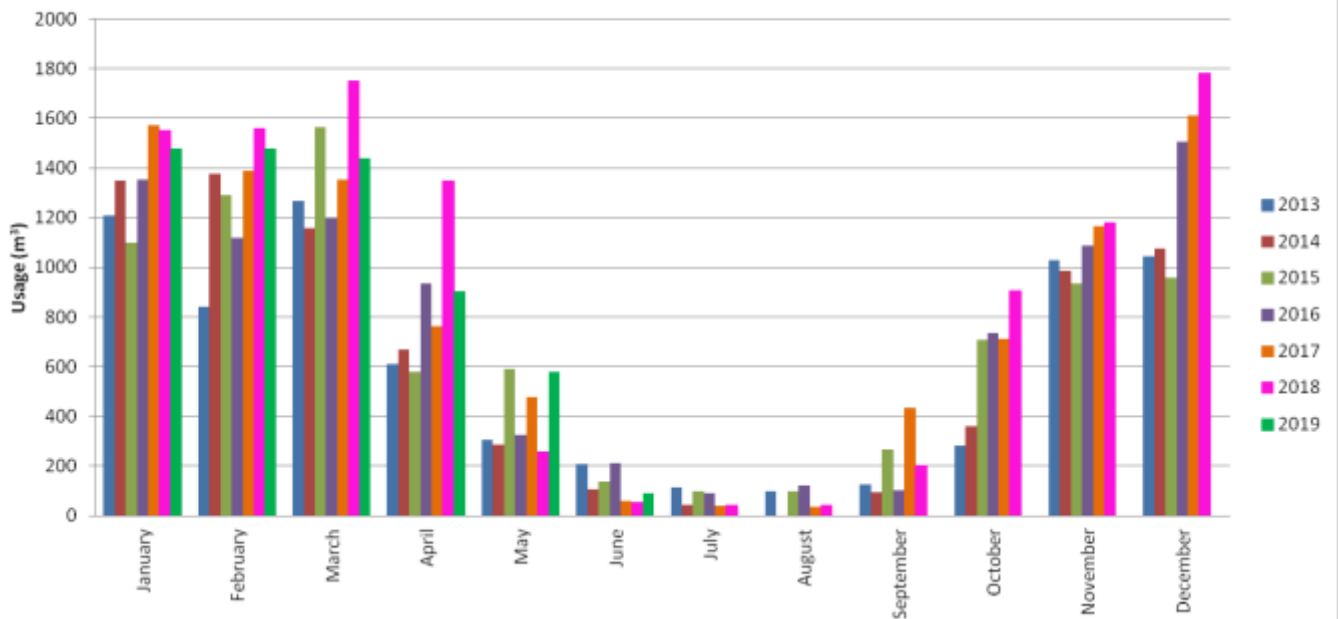


### Monthly Electricity Hall usage 2015-2019



For the GAS meter:

### Gas for Church and Hall

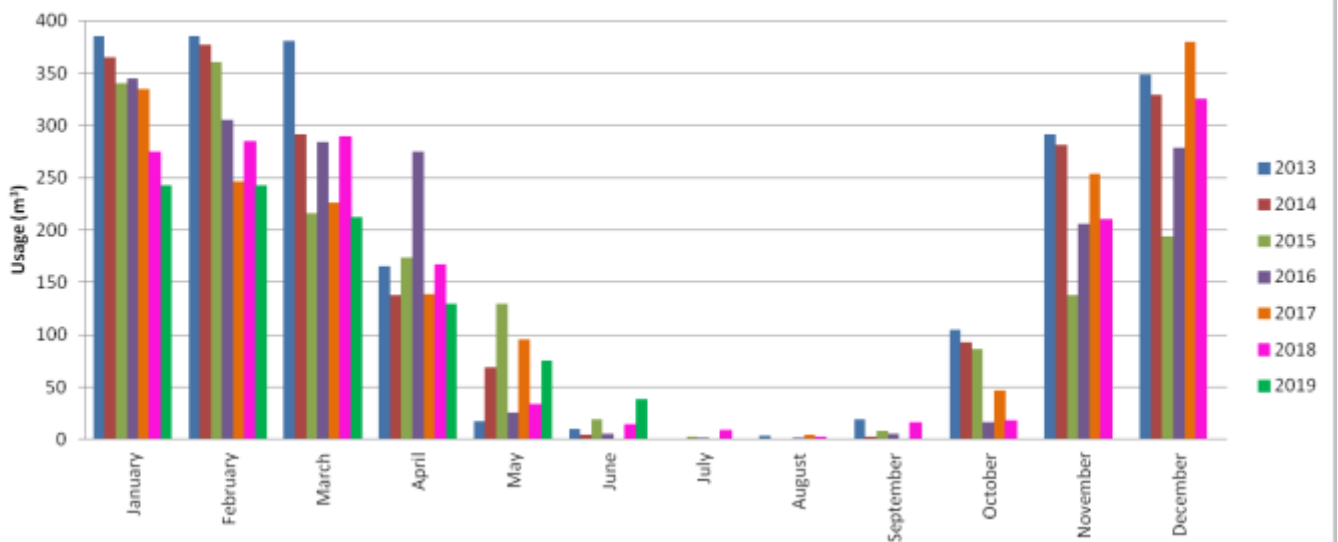


The rather high consumption of gas for heating the hall and the church is of concern and noticed by the Carbon Trust advisor helping us. The boiler is very old and inefficient.

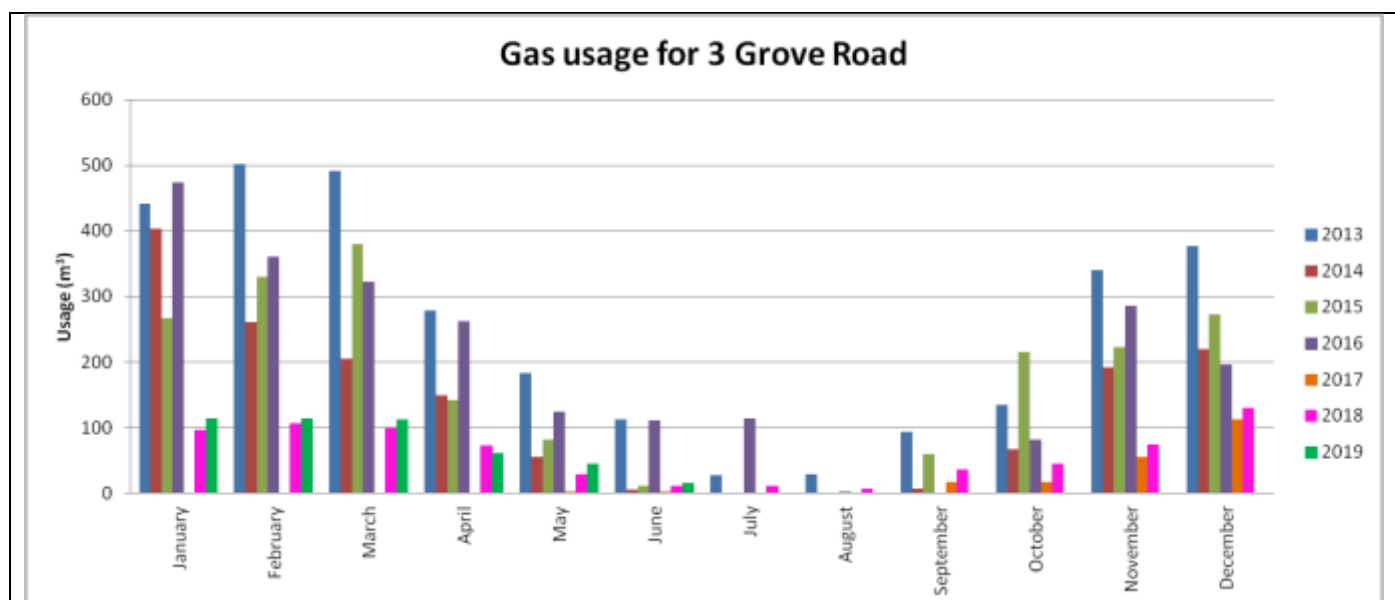
We await their advice in due course, on all aspects of heating, insulation, lighting, air quality, etc.

Summer usage of gas is mostly for hot water and cooking.

### Gas for Presbytery



Because of the benefits of having Solar Thermal installed on the presbytery, it continues to have almost no gas usage in the Summer months of May to September. The drier and sunnier Winter and Spring of 2019 had a benefit effect on reducing gas usage in those months compared to previous years. The cloudier and cooler June month shows a small increase in gas usage.



The gas consumption has greatly reduced as only Fr. Andrew's flat uses gas.

### Suggestion for the parish

## Area of Activity – Finance Report

### Activity since last PPC meeting

#### Parish Accounts for 2019

The Parish Accounts for the 5 months through to the end of May 2019 show an operating deficit of £11,000 (£11,285) most of which is due to payment of accrued travel and housekeeping costs from 2018 and essential maintenance and repair work to the Bell Tower.

#### Parish Budget 2019

The review of the Parish Budget for 2019 has been carried out and it shows an annual operating deficit increased to £10,000 when taking into account increased in-year operating costs and costs which have rolled over from 2018 offset against a yet to be realised 5% increase in income from the Offertory Appeal. As it stands, we are still looking at a significant (£60K) cumulative deficit over the 5-year outlook period and it continues to be necessary to actively manage this deficit.

#### Parish Offertory Appeal

It is still too early to reliably forecast the outcome of the Parish Offertory Appeal. there were a lot of positive verbal responses but only 50 pledge responses. Thirty five (35) of the pledge responses came from existing donors and 15 came from new donors, 9 of which included a Gift Aid commitment.

#### Parish Projects

The Finance Committee has continued to support and provide advice on the Parish Projects that are in planning or progress.

### Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who
Update Long Term Maintenance Plan	FC ++
Update and implement Parish Asset (Inventory) Register	FC ++



<b>Area of Activity</b> GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations – Trish Bonnett July 2019	
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed and submitted annual return with data updated and included a new page for the Guild of servers register.</li> <li>Putting into place a check for email details published in newsletter that the people are okay with details going in the newsletter. Set up a file with permissions from people.</li> </ul>	
<b>Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit of database can take place over a period of time. It is a question of ensuring people update their details. The plan will be to check via email and then in those attending church and then those who have not checked to be written to.</li> <li>Website needs to be checked for any personal addresses and permission sought for them to be on the website, this includes any email addresses that are in the newsletter which goes onto the website.</li> </ul>	
<b>Objectives completed from last report</b>	<b>Who</b>
The objectives for audit of the database and updating website are still ongoing.	
<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Who</b>
Do audit on parish database.	TB

<b>Area of Activity</b> Gender Diversity - As I am July 2019	
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice boards being updated so that J&amp;P is on left and As I am will be on the right.</li> <li>Logo and banner being developed for display on the notice board and outside the church</li> <li>All group are looking for video/youtube clips which might be used to run discussion groups in the parish around the issues of being accepted for who you are.</li> <li>Sex education programme of support being developed by 10/10 theatre company. Details have been sent to Our Lady's school.</li> <li>Anyone who wishes is invited to join the Westminster Diocese float for the London Pride parade on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July as advertised in the newsletter last weekend.</li> </ul>	
<b>Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed</b>	
<b>Pastoral objectives set in motion since last report</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>Pastoral objectives set</b>	<b>Who</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete notice boards and commission banner</li> </ul>	TB

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update website.</li> </ul>	TB
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## Health and Safety Report – John Chamberlain

### PPC Meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

#### Not a lot to report this month.

- Action continues with implementing various non-urgent solutions to the recommendations made in the January Precision reports
- Liz Wills has provided a comprehensive analysis of the legal and privacy aspects around the installation of CCTV on the premises. These may impact upon the suggestions for such installation for monitoring undesired access by potentially violent intruders.
- Discussions into the benefits and concerns surrounding the idea will continue.

## Area of Activity Inter-Faith Relations

### Activity since last PPC meeting

The last NHIFF meeting was on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, no other meetings have taken place.

There is no date set for the coming NHIFF is to take place. Bal Sandhu's mother died last month and we have not heard from him for a while.

I attended the **Stort Interfaith Forum** evening talk by author Janet Fleming Rose, she spoke about her recently published book *"A Seed in Your Heart - A Baha'i perspective on race unity"* on Thursday 16 May at Bishop's Stortford – it was a very interesting recount of a significant section of the Baha'i history.

The last **Herts Inter Faith Forum** was on Tuesday, 4 June. We heard a talk by Sarah Beazley - High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

I attended the WHIFG the meeting on Tuesday 21st May - **Faith and Politics** at Hatfield Fire station. I have attended on Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> June the **"You, Me & Those Who Came Before"** Inter-Faith Panel & Reflection at St. John Vianney Parish. Realities of displacement continue to escalate in many parts of our world. As of 2017, 65.6m individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide. This event brought to the table voices of various faith communities united to build bridges of inclusion and welcome, speaking from lived experiences and a commitment to care for our common home.

I attended the **"Time is Now"** Interfaith Speaker Event at Church House with former Archbishop Rowan Williams, and hosted by Christine Allen the new Director of CAFOD.

I have suggested that Pope Francis and Grand Imam sign in Abu Dhabi the amazing historic declaration of peace, freedom, women's rights entitled: ***Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*** be the topic of an inter-faith sharing evening in October or November this year, possibly hosted in our parish, this is still to be confirmed.

From Religions for Peace: **The Our Earth, Our Responsibility** pledge page (re: Jan report)

<https://rfp.org/connect/global-interfaith-youth-network/ourearth-ourresponsibility/>

Objectives set	Who
	DME

## Area of Activity Justice & Peace

### Activity since last PPC meeting



John Scott, Ann Milner, Michael and I have just taken part in the "Time is Now" mass MP lobby day last Wed 26<sup>th</sup>. Thousands joined to tell our politicians #thetimeisnow to end our contribution to climate change and restore a stable natural environment before it is too late.

The next meeting of the Social Justice and Peace Forum of the Diocese of Westminster with Bishops Hudson and McAleenan is due on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at St Aloysius Church Hall, London. Entitled '**Our Place: How do we achieve the global UN Sustainable Development Goals on our level?**' will discuss how the Westminster diocese can best contribute to this project.

*N.B.: I can't go on that day, is there anyone interested or willing to take part?*

I will be attending on the 29 June 2019 The Operation Noah annual Supporters' Day will be held in Central London, with the heading of '**Climate Emergency: A Christian Response of Faith, Hope and Urgency**'. This is very relevant in the light of children striking from schools and Extinction Rebellion demonstrations and the recent UK Parliament statement acknowledging it, as well as the "Time is Now" mass MP lobby.

There is now an urgent call for churches at the national level and parishes at the local level to individually and better still in local groups, to make their own a "Declaration of Climate Emergency" and with that embrace an ambitious plan of action to halve the total CO<sub>2</sub> generated in the energy used by our parish site by 2030. So that we can be a true witness to our town and surroundings and our politicians, now that the UK parliament have made the declaration and the NHDC and the Stevenage council. If it is an emergency, then it is "all hands on deck" and the focus of all efforts!

So, could our parish run the 6 session course based on the booklet produced by Operation Noah "**Sustainable Faith: a Green Gospel for the age of Climate Change**" by Nicola Bull and Mark McAllister? I have shared some suggestions with Fr. Tom, Fr Euloge, Trish and others already.

**Advanced warning:** The call is out for as many people and school children to join the **Global General Strike for the Climate** being planned for **Friday 27th September** - we hope it will be a really big event, in London (or possibly locally). **Millions of school strikers have shown us they're serious about climate action. Adults, will you join our youth?** Could we encourage many parishioners and JHN school children to take part in it? Keeping the pressure up on all politicians to act on the causes of Climate Catastrophe and Global Heating (global warming is now behind us and we are faced with the next stage already). See: <https://globalclimatestrike.net/>  
( Our house is overheating already and on fire in parts, business as usual is no longer acceptable)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/24/greta-thunberg-general-strike-action-climate-change> - **This too is Eucharist...!** And call for Climate Justice now and for all!

On the Green Christian website there is more information, including a sample declaration text: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/now-its-all-hands-on-deck-christians-encouraged-to-ask-their-church-to-declare-an-ecological-emergency/>

As the first Hertfordshire catholic parish to get the LiveSimply award, will we be also the first to publicly make a Climate emergency declaration??? And would we bring others along with us, thus setting an example of community cooperation???

In the same Creation Season, there is on Tuesday 3rd Sep, **the No Faith In War – Stop DSEI Arms Fair 2019** at The Excel Centre, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Given what an enormous energy and resources footprint armed conflict and damage it leaves behind the global population must learn to live without the use of such means, to help reach the required Climate Emergency targets.

#### **Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed**

Most welcome!

<b>Objectives set</b>	<b>Who</b>
	DME

	<b>Liturgy Report Parish Pastoral Council 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Lent &amp; Easter Liturgies –</b>

	<p>All services were moving and reflective, creating the right atmosphere for Holy week - enhanced by music and liturgical celebration.</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b> all went well. Need to get congregation out earlier to garden for blessing of palms. <b>Readers</b> to ask congregation to assemble in garden</p> <p><b>Walk of Witness</b> – was well attended; Reflection was good; Hill song group was good. Parish served up the Hot Cross Buns</p> <p><b>Live streaming of Passion</b>-Trafalgar Sq –12.00 stream had problems. - OK for 3.15 performance.</p> <p><b>Stations of Cross</b> –people very impressed – general feeling of peace and serenity</p> <p><b>Easter Vigil</b> – amazing liturgy; great singing; excellent!</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday 8.30 &amp; 10.30 &amp; 5pm</b> – all very good celebratory liturgies; good attendance at all Masses.</p>
2	<p><b>Ministries</b></p> <p><b>Servers</b> – Need for a recruitment drive. Will approach First Communion children.</p> <p><b>Children's Liturgy</b> – Volunteers have settled; Get together took place; training for the team from Mary Crowley. There are 4 Son Seekers events during the year.</p> <p><b>Sacristy</b> - Bernard Glenholm is overseeing;</p>
3	<p><b>Other Matters</b> – Mary Deuchar enquired about <b>learning music / melody</b> for and understanding new hymns to expand repertoire. This could be done with a short introduction and practice / rehearsal before Mass.</p>
4	<p><b>Pentecost – 9<sup>th</sup> June</b> - Liz Head &amp; Eric received into the Church.</p> <p><b>Confirmation – 29<sup>th</sup> June</b> – there are 23 candidates. Celebration excellent. Bishop Paul very good. Hottest day of the Year (so far!!)</p>
5	<p><b>Seeking a Sacramental Coordinator to Replace Susanna Hawksley</b> leaving at the end of the Year. Considering splitting the role.</p>
6.	<p><b>Forthcoming events</b></p> <p>Preparing presentations/prayer services for <b><u>Month of Creation September 2019</u></b> and for <b><u>Extraordinary Month of Mission - October 2019</u></b></p>
7.	<p><b>Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September – 7.15 pm.</b></p>

<b>Area of Activity</b>	LiveSimply - Ann Milner
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>	

**Coffee Mornings (CM):** Outreach/Charity CM's held each month on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Charities supported were Garden House Hospice. In May we supported Helping Herts Homeless (formerly North Herts Sanctuary), June we supported 7 Fountains Scholarship Fund, a project run by the Jesuits in Thailand which provides education for disadvantaged children, in July we will be supporting Emmaus. Also held 2 CM's for Parish */livesimply* projects. Again thanks to Maeve for cakes and the Wilson family for cakes and on help the CM days.

**Climate Lobby:** Four parishioners went down to participate in the Climate Lobby on 26<sup>th</sup> June. The lobby was organised by a coalition of several environmental and other charities such as CAFOD, Christian Aid, Greenpeace etc. Predictably the MP for Hitchin & Harpenden did not make an appearance at the area set aside for meeting MP's.

**CAFOD Volunteer's Day:** This took place on 8<sup>th</sup> June in Wesyminster Hall, London.and was attended by a representative of the livesimply team.. The objective was to meet the new CAFOD Director. It was a very well organised event.

**Michaelmas Fair:** Next planning meeting taking place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Abolish War Conference:** This was attended on 29<sup>th</sup> June and explored the links between conflict and climate change. It was very informative.

**Season of Creation (SoC):** Work has already begun on a series of 4 Meditations based on the Orthodox Church's SoC liturgy. It is envisaged that there will be a Meditation for each week of September.

**Gardening Group:** They are keeping on top of the parish gardens but still need more volunteers. A couple of parishioners have volunteered to mow lawns. The group is waiting for confirmation of scout hut replacement location so they can plan the movement of plants etc. The Community Vegetable garden is managed separately. Parishioners need to be reminded to help themselves to the produce.

**Recycling:** The team continues to look after the recycling of bottle tops, bringing them over to Lush at Luton from time to time. There is now a freepost address they can be sent to which will make it easier. Recently two enormous boxes equivalent to about 8 bags were dispatched.

**Livesimply Tips:** Tips to end of 2019 have now been sent for publication.

#### Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set/Planned Activities	Who
<b>Campaigns:</b> Identify campaigns to promote within the parish	LS Team
<b>Labrynth</b> to be designed and planned	Grdn Team
<b>Season of Creation:</b> Generation of Meditations ongoing	LS Team
<b>Next Meetings:</b> Next <b>OWLS</b> meeting will be Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July at 18:30 <b>Michaelmas Fair Planning Meeting</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> July at 18:45.	LS Team Parish

## Maintenance Report John Scott

2406-1/ two lamps in Fr A's bathroom ( jvc )

2306\_1/ Urinals defragmented again ... bucket and trusty plunger (js)

2006\_1/ Presbytery vacuum cleaner repaired - burnt out cable, sparks flew! ( jvc )

1806\_1/ Mended the long black folding projector screen. ( jvc )

1806\_2/ Mended the broken plug on an extension lead. ( jvc )

1806\_3/Repaired a sticking pew kneeler. ( jvc )

1806\_4/Recovered 8 notice boards with new material. ( jvc )

1706\_1/ fast-assemble mods to crib structure ( jvc )

1706\_2/ gaffer-tape squirrel-repair scout-hut ceiling ( js )

0806\_1/ replace "birdbox" on Mencap Minibus keysafe ( js/pj )

0406\_1/ replace 3 striplights in hall ( MikeE/js)

0106\_1/ clear all gutters everywhere ( js/pj )

0106\_2/ gutter leak on DorisHarrisRoom ( js/pj )

0106\_3/ gutter leak & busted downpipe on hall ( js/pj )

0106\_4/ gutter & flat roof inspection report <for diocese insurer>( js/pj )

2805\_1/ replaced the tap washers in the Presbytery kitchen.( jvc )

2805\_2/ Two more porch notice boards recovered with new mat'l.( jvc )  
2405\_1 replace pir lamp over porch Nightingale Rd steps ( jvc )  
2405\_2 new cloth Covers 3 free standing porch noticeboards ( jvc )  
1205\_1/ emergency fix - door after break-in ( js )  
1205\_2/ unblock DorisHarris Room toilet ( js/pj )

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## **Property Working Group**

Project: Replacing the Scout Hut.

Since the last PPC meeting we have sent in a request via Keely Tattersfield (Diocese Fund Raiser) for a £10,000 grant from the Lottery Fund to pay for a Feasibility Study for the design of the proposed replacement of the Scout Hut. We expect news of our success in the next few week.

In this Feasibility Study the information from all the stakeholder groups and the Parish at large will be put forward for thought in the design.

When we have a plan it will be shown to the Parish at large for their comments.

Project: Side Chapel.

A meeting was held with the Property Working Group on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. The reason for this meeting was to move the Side Chapel project forward.

To this end Trish was invited to join us to spell out where we were at this time and what her expectations were and was there any way to achieve this.

Basically the problem is the funding. There is a £60,000 shortfall which must be found before anything can happen. The Parish cannot fund this gap.

After some debate the question was asked "What can we build for £60,000 and satisfy the Donor family and achieve a Side Chapel for the Parish."

An idea was put forward to build a Side Chapel within the confines of the church proper. Some plans were produced to show how it could look. After the initial consternation this idea was largely accepted.

The team were tasked to get a practical cost for this idea. The Budget figure of £45,000 came back with a few provisos. But it meant with thought and caution a suitable building could resolve the problem.

The help of the Diocese Parish building Surveyor Chris Fanning was requested and a meeting with him was held Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Chris having been part of the original project was happy to see and understand the situation.

His advice was to use a specialist architect who are well versed in the design of Side Chapels. He suggested we contact Weal Associates (go to their website for the projects completed) for an initial meeting with a view to them designing the chapel. He will make the first contact on our behalf. Chris also thought that we can achieve our objective within our budget if we are careful.

The Property Working Group will meet again to discuss with the Architect. All will be informed.

<b>Area of Activity Outreach – Trish Bonnett July 2019</b>	
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>	
<b>Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported a variety of funerals which continue to be a big part of our outreach.</li> <li>Supporting Linda Budd more as she is recovering from several admissions to hospital.</li> <li>Supporting Janina with some medical issues which involves trips to a London hospital.</li> <li>Trying to up the visiting of parishioners and supporting Fr Euloge to visit more also.</li> <li>Supported 24/7 prayer initiative by Built on Faith</li> <li>I was in the Life of Christ at Wintershall reaching over 600 people including 20 more schools than they have had as a result of the assemblies in schools in London. Supporting an initiative to recruit more actors for the London area.</li> <li>Supporting the Reconciliation Course in our parish with 30 people enrolled but average of 20 attending regularly. Will be looking at the next phase with Lambeth in the autumn.</li> <li>Preparing for the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October.</li> </ul> <b>Liturgy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with Mary Crowley from the Diocese to plan the Teaching Children how to pray session</li> <li>Prepared for the healing service in June (unable to attend due to rehearsals)</li> <li>Have met with Ian McBain who will now upload materials on the website for the Children's liturgy</li> <li>Led Eucharistic services each day of the week the priests were on retreat.</li> </ul> <b>Other support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepared job description and specification for Susanna's replacement.</li> <li>Sorted retreat location for our priests</li> <li>Met with benefactors to discuss future of side chapel. Preparing a survey for the parish to determine views of parishioners</li> </ul>	
<b>Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed</b>	
<b>Objectives completed from last report</b>	<b>Who</b>

Objectives set	Who
Complete survey regarding side chapel	TB
Prepare the EMM for October.	Pastoral team
<b>Area of Activity</b> Safeguarding – Trish Bonnett July 2019	
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maria Greene still continues to chase up information required to complete DBS checks.</li> </ul>	
<b>Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed</b>	
Objectives completed from last report	Who
Objectives set	Who

<b>Area of Activity</b> Sacramental Preparation – Susanna Hawksley
<b>Activity since last PPC meeting</b>
<p><b>Baptism</b> The next course is to be held on July 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. [It is a mark of the current way of living that parents are finding it next to impossible to give up the time to prepare for this sacrament. The course takes two and a half hours: the first session is about what is happening, spiritually, at baptism and the second is about the rite itself and its profound symbolism. I don't think one can do justice to it in less time.] I am often asked if there is another way of doing it. 'Why yes! Take this tablet and don't eat anything for an hour.'</p> <p><b>First Holy Communion</b> 31 children made their first Holy Communion on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. The liturgy was joyful and the children were wonderful. I want to record my deepest thanks to Teresa Lawrence-Hyde, who catechises the children who do not attend Catholic schools, over several months – she does a tremendous job and the children always enjoy her sessions. I am very grateful to her for her help. The children will be collecting their certificates at the Masses over the weekends of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> June. I hope the parish will welcome them enthusiastically.</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b> At the time of writing, the Confirmation Mass is just over a week away. All the candidates who did the course have chosen to be confirmed. I have had good feedback from parents.</p> <p><b>Marriage</b> No courses are booked at the moment. When the Bonnets (Jonathan and Lucy) who facilitate it, have their timetable for next year, we can book dates. We aim for a course in November and one in April.</p> <p><b>RCIA</b> AT 5pm Mass on Pentecost Sunday, Liz Head and Eric Caterer were received and confirmed in the Catholic Church. Liz had the Bethany Club Massive supporting her, and Eric's large family came to be with him. Both are choosing to continue with RCIA sessions. I have one lady wanting to be received and one young lady preparing for adult confirmation. I am about to advertise RCIA and hold an 'open evening'.</p> <p><b>Adult formation</b> With the help of Trish, I have been running the '<b>Reconciliation</b>' course, which is being promulgated by the Church of England. The aim of the course is to cultivate 'reconcilers' in communities. It is comprised</p>



of five sessions, run on a Sunday evening. This course is, I think, one of those Spirit led and Spirit filled initiatives that has the ability to really change a community. I hope to offer it, in the future, to other groups. Our own group is a good mix of parishioners and people from other churches in Hitchin. People have commented positively in the feedback about the ecumenical character of the group. The course is a pilot at the moment and we feed back to the team at Lambeth Palace, after each session. So far the feedback has been overwhelmingly good. Watch this space – I am evangelical about this!

**Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed**

**Objectives set**

**Who**

**Area of Activity** Safeguarding – Trish Bonnett July 2019

**Activity since last PPC meeting**

- Maria Greene still continues to chase up information required to complete DBS checks.

**Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed**

**Objectives completed from last report**

**Who**

**Objectives set**

**Who**

**Area of Activity** YOUTH

**Activity since last PPC meeting**

On the 16 of June 19' Son Seekers team organised the Funday Sunday - Father's Day & Trinity Sunday as the last youth event before the summer break. The numbers were low, as expected, with 13 children attended. The atmosphere was wonderful as always. A special thank you to Fr Euloge who helped with the event, the youth team is very grateful.

The Youth Ministry activities in our parish will resume on 6<sup>th</sup> of October 19' with Funday Sunday - Grandparents Day.

**Youth worker position in our parish:**

Helen Bailey has contacted the other local youth organisations and parishes asking for an advice, suggestions and their help in regards to Youth worker position in our parish and now we are waiting for their response.

**Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed**

**Objectives set**

**Who**

TP

